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Taxation & Revenue Secretary Padilla Urges Eligible Native American Veterans To File For Income Tax Refunds
State Paid over \$800,000 In Refunds To Native American Veterans Whose Personal Income Taxes Were Improperly Withheld

SANTA FE – New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Secretary Demesia Padilla today encouraged both retired and active Native American veterans to contact the State to determine if they're eligible to receive an income tax refund. The State has so far paid over \$825,000 to about 660 Native American veterans who lived on tribal lands and had their New Mexico personal income taxes improperly withheld from their military pay during periods of active duty since 1977.

"We want to ensure that every Native American veteran that is eligible and entitled to an income tax refund receives one under this program," said Secretary Padilla. "We are making every effort to get the word out and work with our pueblos, nations and tribes to reach these veterans."

In 2008, the New Mexico State Legislature approved a bill that was signed into law to create the Native American Veteran Income Tax Settlement Fund. This bill allowed using this fund to repay state personal income tax withheld by the United States Department of Defense from Native American veterans when they were on active duty in the military and had their residence on Indian lands in New Mexico. The Legislature initially appropriated \$1 million to the fund and then allocated an additional \$250,000 this fiscal year.

Veterans who qualify to receive refunds under this settlement program must be a Native American, have served in the military, have proof of active duty status while still having a residence on Indian lands in New Mexico and proof of paying taxes (W2 forms). "The Department will request the W2 information from the United States Department of Defense if any of the veterans can't locate their W2 forms," said Secretary Padilla. "We're working closely with the New Mexico Department of Veterans Affairs to make the refund process quick and easy for our veterans."

This program applies only to those veterans who had their official residence on Indian lands in New Mexico while actively serving in the military. Native American veterans could call the Department of Veterans Affairs to obtain more information on the application process at 505-827-6306.